

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 80

Introduced by Assembly Member Dymally

April 1, 2003

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 80—Relative to the Compton Unified School District.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 80, as introduced, Dymally. Compton Unified School District: Board of Trustees.

This measure would declare that the Compton Unified School District has successfully fulfilled the requirements that were imposed on it as a condition for the return of the legal rights, duties, and powers of governance to the Board of Trustees of the Compton Unified School District. The measure would, in addition, request the Superintendent of Public Instruction to notify on or before August 15, 2003, the trustee with temporary oversight authority over the school district of the termination of that position.

Fiscal committee: yes.

1 WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees of the Compton Unified
2 School District has assumed all of the legal rights, duties, and
3 powers of a school district; and

4 WHEREAS, The assumption of these legal rights, duties, and
5 powers is accompanied by a new administration dedicated to
6 academic excellence, newer and better facilities, a safer school
7 environment, and appropriate and sustained community relations;
8 and

1 WHEREAS, School district efforts have led to greatly
2 improved academic achievement, the recruitment and hiring of
3 highly qualified teachers and administrative personnel, excellent
4 community relations, and a safer school environment; and

5 WHEREAS, The school district's leadership team consists of
6 highly professional and competent board members and
7 administrators; and

8 WHEREAS, The Superintendent of the Compton Unified
9 School District, Dr. Jesse L. Gonzales, is a 26-year veteran with
10 impeccable credentials and an exemplary record of performance
11 in school administration; and

12 WHEREAS, The new President of the Board of Trustees of the
13 Compton Unified School District, Isadore Hall, is an experienced
14 administrator and entrepreneur who was elected to the board in
15 2001; and

16 WHEREAS, Pupil achievement has increased, teacher
17 satisfaction is high, and community relations are positive in the
18 Compton Unified School District; and

19 WHEREAS, More Compton Unified School District pupils
20 were accepted into the University of California during 2002 than
21 in the previous five years combined; and

22 WHEREAS, The community demonstrated support of the
23 school district by passing a local bond measure with an 83 percent
24 vote of approval; and

25 WHEREAS, The state appropriated \$20,000,000 in 1993 as an
26 emergency loan to the Compton Unified School District; and

27 WHEREAS, The loan required the appointment of a state
28 administrator who would exercise the legal rights, duties, and
29 powers of the governing board of the school district; and

30 WHEREAS, The school district was required to repay the loan
31 in order for the board of trustees to regain its legal rights, duties,
32 and powers; and

33 WHEREAS, The school district repaid a total of \$23,458,061
34 in loan principal and interest and made the sixth and final payment
35 on the loan in June 2001; and

36 WHEREAS, The school district was required to improve in the
37 following five operational areas: community relations, personnel
38 management, pupil achievement, financial management, and
39 facilities management; and



1 WHEREAS, It was mandated that the Fiscal Crisis and
2 Management Assistance Team (FCMAT) determine whether the
3 school district had made substantial and sustained progress in each
4 of the operational areas; and

5 WHEREAS, On the basis of those determinations FCMAT
6 would recommend to the Superintendent of Public Instruction an
7 incremental return of the legal rights, duties, and powers to the
8 board of trustees; and

9 WHEREAS, FCMAT adopted the standard that if the average
10 rating in an operational area reached a level of 6.00, and no
11 individual operational area reached a level below 4.00, FCMAT
12 would consider the incremental return of the operational areas to
13 the board of trustees; and

14 WHEREAS, When the school district attained an average rating
15 of 7.5 for the five areas, FCMAT recommended that all legal
16 rights, duties, and powers be returned to the board of trustees; and

17 WHEREAS, In August 2000, FCMAT recommended to the
18 Superintendent of Public Instruction that operational areas of
19 community relations and facilities management be returned to the
20 board of trustees; and

21 WHEREAS, On January 30, 2001, the Superintendent of Public
22 Instruction formally notified the Compton Unified School District
23 of the restoration of the board of trustees' rights, duties, and
24 powers in the operational areas of community relations and
25 facilities management; and

26 WHEREAS, The Superintendent of Public Instruction agreed
27 to remove the term "advisory" from the title of the governing
28 board and authorized the governing board to search for a
29 permanent superintendent; and

30 WHEREAS, In February 2001, FCMAT recommended that the
31 operational area of pupil achievement be returned to the board of
32 trustees; and

33 WHEREAS, In an August 2001 report, FCMAT recommended
34 that the operational areas of personnel management and financial
35 management be returned to the board of trustees; and

36 WHEREAS, on September 11, 2001, the Superintendent of
37 Public Instruction declared that the Compton Unified School
38 District had shown substantial and sustained improvement in the
39 remaining operational areas and formally returned the governing



1 authority for all operations to the board of trustees, effective
2 December 11, 2001; and

3 WHEREAS, In that same order, the Superintendent of Public
4 Instruction changed the state administrator to a state trustee and
5 granted him temporary oversight authority; now, therefore, be it

6 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
7 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature requests the
8 Superintendent of Public Instruction to notify the trustee charged
9 with temporary oversight authority over the Compton Unified
10 School District, on or before August 15, 2003, of the termination
11 of that position, thus returning all legal rights, duties, and powers
12 to the Board of Trustees of the Compton Unified School District;
13 and be it further

14 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
15 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

